1995 with headquarters at Hyderabad. The objects for which the Council has been established (inter-alia) are to:

(i) promote rural higher education on the lines of Mahatma Gandhi's revolutionery ideas on education so as to take up challenges of micro-planning for transformation of rural areas as envisaged in NPE 1986 (as modified in 1992);

(ii) consolidate network and develop institutions engaged in programmes of Gandhian Basic Education and Nai Talim;

(iii) encourage other educational and voluntary agencies to develop in accordance with Gandhian Philosophy of education;

(iv) strengthen teacher training facilities for Gandhian Basic Education;

(v) strengthen the content of all these institutions with emphasis on science and technology;

(vi) promote research as a tool for social and rural development; and

(vii) promote extension services to the community through micro-level planning.

Animal Husbandry in Orissa

1475. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Animal Husbandry activities have been extended to all States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the target set in this regard during the Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Besides State Government programmes following Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being implemented for strengthening the animal husbandry activities in the State of Orissa.

(1) Extension of frozen semen technology & progeny testing programmes.

(2) Assistance of States for feed and fodder development.

(3) National project on rinderpest eradication.

(4) Assistance to States for control of animal diseases.

(5) National bull production programme.

(6) Professional efficiency development.

(7) Assistance to State for improvement fo carcasss utilisation centres/ primary flaying units.

(8) Assistance to states for integrated piggery development.

(9) National ram/buck production programme.

(10) Integrated Dairy Development projects in non operation flood hilly and backward areas.

(d) As a result of Implementation of various schemes the production of major livestock products is expected to improve. The targets set for milk and egg production for the State of Orissa during the terminal year of the Eighth Plan are as under;

Milk — 7· lakh tones
Egg — 800 million number

दिल्ली-लखनऊ शताब्दी एक्सप्रेस का अनिर्धारित स्टापेज

1476. **श्री राघव जी:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) दिल्ली-लखनऊ शताब्दी एक्सप्रेस वर्ष 1996 के दौरान कितने अवसरों पर ऐसे रेलवे स्टेशनों पर रुकी, जहां उसका स्वीकृत तथा घोषित स्टापेज नहीं है: और

(ख) इस प्रकार रेलगाड़ी रोके जाने के मुख्य कारण क्या-क्या थे?

रेल मंत्रालय मे राज्य मंत्री (श्री सतपाल महाराज): (क) और (ख) गाड़ी को प्राथमिकता देना, सावधानी आदेश जारी करना, प्राकृतिक अनियमितता, खतरे की जंजीर खींचना, सामान की खराबी आदि जैसे विभिन्न कारणों की वजह से निर्धारित ठहराव के बिना गाड़ी को रोका जा सकता है। किसी गाड़ी विशेष के अनेक फेरों के ऐसे सभी गैर-अनुसूचीबद्ध ठहराव का ब्यौरा तत्काल उपलब्ध नहीं है।

Silting of Chilka Lake in Orissa

1477. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the silting of Asia's largest blue laqoon Chilka lake in Orrisa;

(b) if so, the steps taken to provide adequate fund to the State Government of Orissa to desilt the largest lake; and

(c) the details of the steps taken to save that lake from destruction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPTAIN JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The 10th Finance Commission has recommended an amount of Rs. 27 crores to the Government of Orissa under Special Problem Grants for preservation and restoration including desiltation of the Chilka lake. The Government has accepted the recommendations of the Commission and has requested the Government of Orissa to furnish action plan for approval of Inter Ministerial Empowered Committee.

(c) Chilka lake is designated as one of the Wetlands of International Importance under Ramsar Convention and is also covered under National Programmes for the Conservation of Wetlands and Wildlife. An amount of Rs. 112.30 lakhs has been provided so far by the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests to the Government of Orissa for soil conservation in the catchment area habitat improvement of Nalabana, database creation and generating awareness.

Jafri Committee Report on Urdu

1478. SHRI MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the stand of the Government with regard to the Jafri Committee Report on Urdu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): The Govt. has not taken any final decision on the Jafri Committee Report on Urdu.

Introduction of New Train Between Mumbai and Ajmer Sherif

1479. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the demand of the people of Mumbai for starting a new train between Mumbai and Ajmer Sherif (Rajasthan);

(b) if so, what action is being taken to fulfil this demand; and

(c) if no action is being taken, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Demand has been examined but not found feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.